

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MAINE,

IN FAVOR OF

*Making indemnity for French spoliations committed prior to 1800.*

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FEBRUARY 21, 1845.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

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RESOLVES RESPECTING THE FRENCH SPOILIATIONS UPON AMERICAN COMMERCE.

*Resolved*, That the Government of the United States is bound by the highest constitutional duty to make provisions for the relief of its own citizens, and their representatives, who were sufferers by the French spoliations upon American commerce prior to the year eighteen hundred.

*Resolved*, That the release by the United States to France, of all claim of restitution for the unlawful aggressions of that Power, rested upon the grant of full and important equivalents, which have long been held and enjoyed by the United States, to the great and common benefit of the whole Federal Union; and that neither honor, justice, nor wise national policy, will warrant any longer delay on the part of the General Government to execute the promises of indemnity, which it thus made directly and voluntarily, in behalf of its own citizens.

*Resolved*, That the long period of nearly fifty years, during which the Government of the United States has failed to execute its own engagements to those whose just claims were released to a foreign Power for the general advantage, while it has greatly diminished the number of the original sufferers, has also greatly extended and multiplied the hardships and privations of many of the survivors, and has increased the national obligations to grant immediate relief in this behalf.

*Resolved*, That the number of such sufferers among the people of Maine, and the large amount of their losses, are considerations which entitle and require the Legislature to call upon the General Government for the fulfilment of the national promises to a meritorious and injured class of our own fellow-citizens.

*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to transmit these resolves to the Senators and Representatives of the State of Maine in the Congress

of the United States, and that they be requested to urge their immediate and just action of Congress on the subject.

In the House of Representatives, February 12, 1845.—Read and passed.  
MOSES McDONALD, *Speaker*.

In Senate, February 13, 1845.—Read and passed.  
MANLY B. TOWNSEND, *President*.

Approved, February 13, 1845.  
H. J. ANDERSON.

# STATE OF MAINE.

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

*Augusta, February 14, 1845.*

SIR: In compliance with the provisions of resolves, adopted by the Legislature of this State, and approved on the 13th instant, entitled "Resolves respecting the French spoliations upon American commerce," I have the the honor herewith to communicate a copy of the same, for your consideration and attention, as contemplated therein.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. J. ANDERSON.

Hon. JOHN FAIRFIELD.